

V. REMARKS

Claims 1, 5 and 21 are objected to because of minor informalities. The claims are amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-6 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose et al. (U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0087690) in view of Frain (U.S. Patent No. 5,683,295) and Okada (U.S. Patent No. 6,620,044). Claims 13-21 are rejected under 35 USC 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Loose in view of Okada.

Claim 1

The features of the claim 1 lie in the following three points:

(1) game information is displayed in a symbol display area of a second display device after a game has been started and before a specific game result is displayed in a first display device (reels);

(2) the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying the specific game result displayed on the first display means therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high; and

(3) the display control means controlling the second display means so as to display game information in an area including the symbol display area so as to become low.

Regarding the point (1), the Examiner in charge evaluates Okada such that "Consequently, a player, by viewing the secondary display, can predict or expect a result of the game during the variation of symbols, i.e., before the variable display stopped".

Regarding the points (2) and (3), the Examiner evaluates Frain such that "When a winning combination is sensed, the logic circuit 20 provides an output on the output

bus 36 to selectively illuminate the winning combination and to dim or blank out non-winning combinations". In this connection, the Examiner states that "However, Frain teaches wherein the game result display means displays the specific game result by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high".

Fain merely teaches to illuminate a winning combination and to dim or blank out a non-winning combination but not at all teach or disclose structure directed to the above points (2) "the second display means has a symbol display area capable of transmittably displaying the specific game result displayed on the first display means therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high" and (3) "the display control means controlling the second display means so as to display game information in an area including the symbol display area so as to become low".

In conclusion, none of the references teaches or suggests the features of claim 1 directed to the above points (2) and (3).

Claim 13

Claim 13 is canceled and, as a result, the rejection as applied thereto is now moot.

Claim 21

The features of the claim 21 lie in the following two points:

(1) the processor operates to control the second display device so as to transmittably display the symbols on the first display device therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high; and

(2) the processor operates to display game information in the symbol display area by changing the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become low.

Regarding the points (1) and (2), the Examiner evaluates Frain such that "When a winning combination is sensed, the logic circuit 20 provides an output on the output bus 36 to selectively illuminate the winning combination and to dim or blank out non-winning combinations". In this connection, the Examiner states that "However, Frain teaches wherein the game result display means displays the specific game result by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high".

Fain merely teaches to illuminate a winning combination and to dim or blank out a non-winning combination but not at all teach or disclose structure directed to the above points (1) "the processor operates to control the second display device so as to transmittably display the symbols on the first display device therethrough by changing light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become high" and (2) "the processor operates to display game information in the symbol display area by changing the light transmittance rate of the symbol display area so as to become low".

In conclusion, none of the references teaches or suggests the features of claim 21 directed the above points (1) and (2).

It is respectfully submitted that none on the applied art, alone or in combination, teaches or suggests the features of claims 1 and 21 as discussed above. Thus, one of ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated to combine the features of the applied art because such combination would not result in the claimed invention. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1 and 1 are allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 3, 5 and 6 depend from claim 1 and includes all of the features of claim 1. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reason claim 1 is allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

Newly-Added Claims 22-26

New claims 22-26 depend from claim 21. The contents (c) of claim 13 (now canceled) are included in claim 22. New claims 23, 24, 25 and 26 correspond to cancelled claims 14, 17, 18, and 19, respectively.

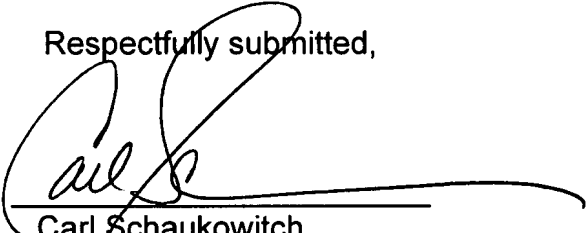
Further, Applicants assert that there are also reasons other than those set forth above why the pending claims are patentable. Applicants hereby reserve the right to submit those other reasons and to argue for the patentability of claims not explicitly addressed herein in future papers.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal
 Petition for Extension of Time (3 months)